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Executive Assistant to the Director

16 May 1952

Assistant to the Director

Drew Pearson's Column for Sunday, May 18

The following is an item from Drew Pearson's column for Sunday, May 18. It was given me by Tris Coffin.

"Central Intelligence has warned ominously that the Communists may try to capture Berlin as the next move in the international checker game for control of Germany. Our agents have learned of a Communist plan to march East German People's Police into Berlin and take the city by force in a propaganda bid for German unity. The plan was supposed to have been presented to the top commanders of East Germany's police force in a secret meeting in Silesia.

"But though the Red Army is reportedly masterminding the coup, Russia is supposed to remain officially aloof and pretend to be a disinterested neutral.

"General Bedell Smith, chief of Central Intelligence, considered the report so important that he delivered it personally to General Omar Bradley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. However, other intelligence experts point out that the Communists seldom telegraph a major move, and that intelligence leaks are often deliberate."

C. B. HANSEN
Colonel, USAF

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16 May 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR PARK ARMSTRONG

Herewith is a roundup respecting the situation in Berlin which was prepared as a matter of urgency by the Board of National Estimates, but was not coordinated outside CIA. The Director took this paper to the White House this morning.

Copies of this paper are being sent to Jimmy Lay for distribution to the members of the NSC Senior Staff in connection with their study of the policy paper on Berlin recently drafted by State and Defense.

LOFTUS E. BECKER

Attachment

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May 16, 1952

~~SECRET - SECURITY INFORMATION~~

~~MEMORANDUM FOR LT. GENERAL WALTER BEDELL SMITH
DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE~~

I concur in the draft memorandum and its recommendations which you have prepared for the President and which you transmitted to us with your note of May 14, but would suggest two changes in wording.

The word "report" in the second sentence of the first paragraph would be less confusing if it were changed to "analysis" in order to make it clear that what is referred to is this paper you are submitting and not Mr. Gray's report itself.

In the fifth paragraph, I suggest that the wording be changed to make our recommendation to the President a little less pressing. It would be better to have the first part of that first sentence read:

"On the other hand, from its study of the report and in light of the present world situation, the Board feels that it would be helpful if, at an appropriate opportunity, you chose to restate to the country and to the world . . ."

The State Department has two specific reservations about a public statement by the President on the subject of psychological warfare. In the first place, we feel that the occasion of such a speech should be carefully selected and should be justified by some current event. A speech on this subject otherwise might be confusing. In the second place we feel, as I am sure you do too, that public speeches about psychological warfare operations may in fact impair the effectiveness of those operations. Psychological warfare at this time is such an integral part of our foreign policy that anything said on the subject must be weighed carefully to be sure that the effect on the foreign policy would be a beneficial one.

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Under Secretary

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CIA has no objection to declass
 It contains information of CIA interest that must remain classified at TS (S) 0

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